

SSUDAC Meeting Summary February 20, 2014

Members Present: Ernest Bland, Carmen Camacho, Don Hague, Mel Tull, Suzy Zusy

Members Absent: Dan Figueroa, Jon Lourie, Dimitri Michaud, Yuri Van Mierlo

Call to Order and Introductions:

- Mr. Mel Tull, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Reports:

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Lt. Alan Felsen, Montgomery County 3rd Police Precinct

- Lt. Felsen reported that there are currently no serious crime trends in the Silver Spring area.
- A robbery occurred at the Gulf gas station at 8600 Georgia Ave on the evening of January 17th. Police have made an arrest.
- On January 19th, a robbery occurred at 8110 Georgia Ave. Lt. Felsen reported that there have been no arrests yet.
- The Wells Fargo bank at 8701 Georgia Ave. was robbed twice, once on January 21st and again on February 21st.
- Lt. Felsen also reported that there have been a series of robberies at Radio Shack stores throughout the Silver Spring area.
- A burglary occurred at an unoccupied house on Ritchie Ave.
- A security guard was assaulted at 1000 Wayne Ave. Police were called and an arrest was made.
- Ms. Freeman asked if there were any new details regarding a possible suicide attempt at 1200 Blair Mill Rd. Lt. Felsen stated that police were closer to ruling the incident as a suicide but that an official ruling has not been made.

Urban District Report

Ms. Yvette Freeman, Chief of Operations, Silver Spring Urban District

- The Urban District recently printed both magnetic vehicle signs for the Bethesda Urban Partnership trash collection truck and vinyl decals for the red buckets carried by SSUD "Red Shirts".

- Red Shirt staff worked to remove snow from ADA ramps and street corners by hand. The Weekenders team also assisted with snow removal efforts from the late February snowstorm.
- Ms. Freeman stated that any areas requiring snow removal in the central business district could be reported through the Silver Spring Urban District Hotline (240-876-2911) or emailed to her directly.
- After the area's recent large snow accumulation, the Urban District is turning its efforts to preparing for possible flooding as well as reporting potholes to the County's Department of Transportation.
- Mr. Tull asked about additional equipment for snow removal efforts. Ms. Freeman replied that the Urban District has taken steps to hire contractors with heavier equipment for significant snowfall in the past, and can access such services should they be required.

Silver Spring Regional Area Director's Report

Mr. Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- Mr. Rodriguez suggested that Cherri Branson, the interim District 5 council member, be invited to an upcoming committee meeting.
- Councilmember Hans Riemer was in attendance at the last Citizens Advisory Board meeting to propose turning the grassy area next to the Silver Spring Transit Center in to a public green space. The Transportation Committee has invited Councilmember Riemer to their March meeting for a general discussion about green/open spaces in Silver Spring.
- The Transportation Committee will have members from the Department of Transportation's signalization program in to discuss traffic signalization related to motor vehicle traffic and pedestrian use.
- Mr. Rodriguez reminded the Advisory Committee that they should send a letter to the County Executive regarding the Silver Spring portion of the FY15 operating budget.
- The County Executive will attend the Best of Fenton Village awards at Kefa Café on Saturday, February 22nd.
- The Golden Flame restaurant has closed.

Update on Pending Development Projects for Downtown Silver Spring

John Marcolin, Urban Designer, MNCPPC

- Mr. John Marcolin presented an overview of the current status of development projects in downtown Silver Spring.
- Areas of the Silver Spring Central Business District (CBD) are being revitalized in accordance with the 2000 Sector Plan. The CBD is divided into four main areas: CBD North/ West/Core, Fenton Village, Ripley District & the South Silver Spring District.
- Two projects are currently under review; The Blairs and United Therapeutics' Phase 3 redevelopment.
- Ten projects have been approved to begin construction. These include: City Place, The Falklands, Silver Spring Park, 814 Thayer, Studio Plaza, 900 Thayer Ave., and Bonifant Plaza among others.
- Projects currently under construction include 8711 Georgia Ave., the Silver Spring Library, Fenwick Station and 1150 Ripley St.
- Mr. Marcolin gave a brief overview of the differences between optional method development and standard method development.
- The next steps for downtown Silver Spring's development are:
 - Further implementation of the sector plan
 - Focus on transit facilities
 - Focus on environmental sustainability
 - Public space/green space
 - Increased focus on design & building of sites

Update on Fenton Village\Georgia Ave. Streetscape

Rogers Stanley, Senior Planning Specialist, DHCA

- Rogers Stanley of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs presented an update on the Fenton Village pedestrian linkages on the east side of Georgia Ave.
- New brick sidewalks and new trees (Princeton Elms) have recently been installed from Silver Spring Ave. beyond Thayer Ave.
- Sidewalk slopes at ADA ramps near the intersections of Bonifant St. & Georgia Ave. and Thayer Ave. & Georgia Ave. exceed the ADA 2% slope incline requirement and may need to be corrected. DHCA is currently working with SHA to determine what can be done to address the issue.
- A newly installed seat wall at the intersection of Silver Spring Ave. and Georgia Ave. was recently damaged and will be repaired.

- WSSC performed work along Georgia Ave. due to a water main issue in front of the Society Lounge. DHCA's contractor repaired the damage created by their water repair work.
- DHCA has requested that parking meters for street parking be installed along Georgia Ave.

Civic Building and Veterans Plaza Use & Users

Eric Rasch, Silver Spring Civic Building

- Mr. Eric Rasch presented a brief overview of operations at the Silver Spring Civic Building and Veterans Plaza.
- Mr. Rasch provided information relating to fees and uses for the Civic Building and Veterans Plaza, as well as statistics on the types of users of both spaces.
- Mr. Rasch thanked the SSUD "Red Shirt" staff for providing regular maintenance services at Veterans Plaza, including daily trash removal and ice melt treatment for pedestrian walkways.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.